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SCHOOL BONDS

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PART I—ARGUMENTS

SCHOOL BONDS. Assembly Constitutional Amendment No. 80. Adds Section 15 to Article XVI of Constitution. Directs issuance and sale of \$250,000,000 of State bonds for purpose of providing loans and grants to school districts of State. Provides that allocation of funds to school districts shall be subject to regulation by Legislature. Authorizes Legislature to prescribe for issuance and sale, rate of interest, terms of payment, and other conditions of bonds. Makes bond proceeds available for expenses of bond issuance and administration of loans and grants. Declares State policy regarding public school sites and buildings.

YES

NO

(For full text of measure, see page 1, Part II)

Argument in Favor of Assembly Constitutional Amendment No. 80

Since California became a State she has been committed to the principle that the education of all youth, and the opportunity to obtain that education is fundamental to American democracy. The Constitution of California contains this declaration. "The Legislature shall provide for a system of common schools by which a free school shall be kept up and supported in each district at least six months in every year, after the first year in which a school has been established." (Constitution of 1849, Article IX, Section III.)

With the growth in population of more than 3½ million people since 1940, and about 20,000 more people entering California each month, state and local governing bodies have had to expand many services provided by taxes. Greatest growth has been in school attendance. From 1,120,000 in 1940 to 1,521,000 in 1948. Record increasing birth rates during those years testify to increase in attendance to 2,258,000 by 1958.

The school system of California has not even been able to provide sufficient classrooms for the present enrollment. Many thousands of children are herded into overcrowded classes of 50 or even 60 pupils; more than 100,000 children are on half-day sessions; another 75,000 attend classes held in church basements, stores, garages and community halls. Such classes cost more to operate than in a regular schoolroom and present difficulties that cheat the children of their equal opportunities for education. There are thousands of students now in high school that have never gone to school a full day.

Historically, the cost of schoolhouse construction has been borne by school district bond issues, and taxes on local property. The vast majority of the new population has swept into areas where there is little to tax except the homes of the residents. A district where the assessed valuation is less than \$15,000 per child in attendance at school cannot raise enough money for its school building needs without raising property taxes to the point of confiscation.

The State Treasury contributes funds for part of the cost of teaching services. Because of increased attendance, this cost has arisen from \$173,521,609 in 1947-48, to \$196,250,900 estimated for 1949-50. Even this figure is generally admitted to be about \$36,000,000 less than the amount needed at present prices. Based on the Bureau of Labor Statistics Cost of Living Index, the \$72.37 per pupil contributed by the State in 1939-40 had the purchasing power of \$68.99, while the \$121.03 contributed in 1947-48 was only worth \$68.93.

With the constitutional provision appropriating \$120 for each child in school which must be raised by taxation, the state contribution for education will be at least \$271,000,00 annually by 1958. None of the foregoing figures take into account the needs of the state colleges or the University of California.

The years each child spends in school pass quickly. Seldom does the chance to recover lost educational opportunities occur. The Legislature has recognized the urgent need, and with the facts before it, a program has been enacted to assist school districts to meet their building needs. A program based on meeting only the minimum requirements for classrooms, with a priority system so that the districts with the greatest need will come first. A state school finance committee has been set up consisting of the Governor, State Controller, State Treasurer, Director of Education, Director of Finance, two Members of the State Senate and two Members of the Assembly. This group will arrange for sale of the bonds and the distributing and repayment to the State of the bond money. This program can only be effective if Proposition No. 1 is approved. The urgency of the need is unquestioned. Every day of delay deprives thousands of children of part of their educational birthright and adds to the ultimate cost. The Legislature approved the proposed bond issue by an overwhelming vote in both houses. I urge the people of California to also express their approval by a "YES" vote.

FRANCIS DUNN, JR., Assemblyman,
13th District, Chairman, Assembly
Committee on Education

Argument Against Assembly Constitutional Amendment No. 80

This measure will delay the improvement of our school system for many years. Vote "NO" on Proposition No. 1.

It will encourage and make necessary the building of an obsolete and antiquated type of schoolhouse.

It will continue and perpetuate inefficient and costly one-room schoolhouses with their one teacher so overburdened in trying to teach six or eight grades or classes that she is unable to give her best efforts and attention to each child.

It will postpone the consolidation of the small poor districts with neighboring wealthy districts that would equalize the wealth of the area for the benefit of the children of the locality.

The wealthy districts must bear their full share of the responsibility and not smugly sit by and see the children of the neighborhood improperly educated merely because they may live on the other side of an imaginary line dividing school

districts. That is the state of affairs in California today.

The schoolhouse built for a small district will be unsuitable for a consolidated district, which will have more children, and it will become useless and a total loss. Money wasted. Consolidation will result in modern style schoolhouses with separate classrooms and more teachers to instruct separate classes or groups of classes, thereby improving the quality of education furnished.

Every child in California is entitled to the best education the State can afford regardless of where it may live, and until inefficient and antiquated one-room schoolhouses, survivals of horse and buggy days, are eliminated, that ideal will not be realized.

A "NO" vote on this proposition will not prevent any child from receiving an education at least equal to what it is now getting, but it will hasten the day when every California child will receive a better education than it is now given.

This measure will only help to perpetuate the inefficient school districts. The better managed and more efficient will get no assistance under this amendment. San Francisco will get no aid whatever. Oakland, Los Angeles, and San Diego will not fare much better. This measure puts a premium on inefficiency.

The issuance of \$250,000,000 in school bonds will depress the bond market and make it necessary to pay high interest. School bonds already issued by school districts will drop sharply in value.

Two hundred fifty million dollars is not a enough money to assist all the districts that are supposed to need help. If this proposition passes more money will surely soon be requested. The amendment originally asked for \$400,000,000 and was cut to the present amount because the sponsors thought the people would not vote for such a large sum at one time.

Funds raised by the bonds, are to be loaned to impoverished school districts. It is silly to think that the loan will be paid back. No banker or anybody else would lend money to the impoverished or to paupers and expect to get repaid. These advances will be plain gifts. California will lose millions of dollars.

Though these bonds are supposed to be for school sites and school buildings, there is nothing in this measure that would limit the use of the money to those purposes; it could be used for other things.

Vote "NO."

GEORGE D. COLLINS, JR.

Assemblyman, 22d Dist.

2 **AGED AND BLIND AID. Initiative Constitutional Amendment.** Adds Article XXVII, repeals Article XXV, State Constitution. Reinstates plan of Old Age Security and Aid to Blind, and method of administration thereof, in existence prior to adoption of Article XXV, except that maximum aid payments are retained at present level of \$75 per month for aged persons and \$85 per month for blind persons, with participation by the State and the counties. Authorizes Legislature to increase or decrease amount of payments to aged and to blind, and otherwise to amend or repeal existing laws.

YES

NO

(For full text of measure, see page 1, Part II)

Argument in Favor of Initiative Proposition No. 2

VOTE "YES"! A "yes" vote on Proposition 2 on Tuesday, November 8, 1949, is a vote for just, sound and workable pensions. A "yes" vote on Proposition 2 benefits the needy aged and blind.

VOTE "YES"! Proposition 2 provides \$85 a month to the blind and \$75 a month to senior citizens. Proposition 2 allows necessary changes in those payments, something which is not possible now except by amending the State Constitution at a costly state-wide election.

VOTE "YES"! Proposition 2 abolishes the provisions of the pension law which discriminate against the California schools and your children. Proposition 2 safeguards the financial reserves you have carefully built up for education.

VOTE "YES"! Proposition 2 corrects the unfair provisions in the present law which discriminate against the blind. Most blind pensioners are in the productive years of life. They want to rehabilitate themselves and become self-supporting. The present law discourages and prevents this.

VOTE "YES"! Proposition 2 prevents pension politicians from extracting large fees from the aged and blind. It protects the needy from the greedy pension politicians.

VOTE "YES"! Your "yes" vote on Proposition 2 will help smash a political clique headed by pension promoter George H. McLain which has ridden to power on the backs of the aged and

blind. Under the scheme promoted by this clique the Director of the State Department of Social Welfare is a pension dictator with powers which violate the fundamental American concept of checks and balances in government. This director alone issues rules and regulations, hears appeals from grievances which she and her employees have themselves committed, and alone may determine the amount of money which the Constitution appropriates for public assistance and administrative costs.

This director controls the spending of \$200,000,000 each year of public money. She draws a salary of \$12,000 per year plus "necessary" expenses. She is not answerable to the Governor or the Legislature.

This director has issued administrative rulings which have hurt the needy—rulings which have actually diminished pension grants to thousands of aged and blind persons.

VOTE "YES"! Proposition 2 restores California's pension program to a sound, sensible basis, subject to workable controls by the people's elected representatives.

VOTE "YES"! Proposition 2 removes a dangerous threat to the financial stability of State.

VOTE "YES"! Proposition 2 benefits wage earners, farmers, senior citizens, the blind, parents and school children, taxpayers and businessmen alike.

Part II—Appendix

1	SCHOOL BONDS. Assembly Constitutional Amendment No. 80. Adds Section 15 to Article XVI of Constitution. Directs issuance and sale of \$250,000,000 of State bonds for purpose of providing loans and grants to school districts of State. Provides that allocation of funds to school districts shall be subject to regulation by Legislature. Authorizes Legislature to prescribe for issuance and sale, rate of interest, terms of payment, and other conditions of bonds. Makes bond proceeds available for expenses of bond issuance and administration of loans and grants. Declares State policy regarding public school sites and buildings.	YES	
		NO	

(This proposed amendment does not expressly amend any existing section of the Constitution, but adds a new section thereto; therefore, the provisions thereof are printed in **BLACK-FACED TYPE** to indicate that they are **NEW**.)

PROPOSED AMENDMENT TO THE CONSTITUTION

Sec. 15. Bonds of the State of California shall be prepared, issued, and sold in the amount of two hundred fifty million dollars (\$250,000,000), in such denominations, to be numbered, to bear such dates, and to bear such rate of interest as shall be determined by the Legislature.

The proceeds of such bonds shall be used:

(a) To provide loans and grants to the several school districts of the State, subject to such legislation, rules, or regulations as the Legislature may, from time to time, determine.

(b) To pay the expenses that may be incurred in preparing, advertising, issuing, and selling the bonds, and in administering and directing the expenditure of the moneys realized from the sale of such bonds.

The issuance, signing, countersigning, endorsing, and selling the bonds herein provided for, and the interest coupons thereon,

the place and method of payment of principal and interest thereon, the procedure for initiating, advertising and holding sales thereof, and the performance by the several state boards and state officers of their respective duties in connection therewith; and all other provisions, terms, and conditions relating to the bonds, shall be as provided by the Legislature.

The Legislature shall pass all laws, general or special, necessary or convenient to carry into effect the provisions of this section. Such laws may provide for the allocation of funds to school districts pursuant to this section by the State Allocations Board or a similar agency, and in that event, notwithstanding any other provision of this Constitution, Members of the Legislature who are required to meet with such board shall have equal rights and duties with the nonlegislative members to vote and act upon matters pending before such board.

The people of the State of California in adopting this section hereby declare that it is in the interests of the State and of the people thereof for the State to aid school districts of the State in providing necessary and adequate school sites and buildings for the pupils of the Public School System, such system being a matter of general concern inasmuch as the education of the children of the State is an obligation and function of the State.

2	AGED AND BLIND AID. Initiative Constitutional Amendment. Adds Article XXVII, repeals Article XXV, State Constitution. Reinstates plan of Old Age Security and Aid to Blind, and method of administration thereof, in existence prior to adoption of Article XXV, except that maximum aid payments are retained at present level of \$75 per month for aged persons and \$85 per month for blind persons, with participation by the State and the counties. Authorizes Legislature to increase or decrease amount of payments to aged and to blind, and otherwise to amend or repeal existing laws.	YES	
		NO	

(This proposed amendment expressly repeals an existing article of and adds a new article to the Constitution, therefore, **EXISTING PROVISIONS** proposed to be **REPEALED** are printed in **STRIKEOUT TYPE**; and **NEW PROVISIONS** proposed to be **INSERTED** are printed in **BLACK-FACED TYPE**.

PROPOSED AMENDMENT TO THE CONSTITUTION

ARTICLE XXVII

Repeal of Article XXV Old Age Security and Security for the Blind

Section 1. Article XXV of amendment to the Constitution of the State of California is hereby repealed.

ARTICLE XXV

Old Age Security and Security for the Blind Law

Section 1. The purpose of this article is to increase the amount of age security to the needy aged of this State from its present maximum of \$60 per month to \$75 per month; and to increase the

security to the needy blind from its present maximum of \$75 per month to \$85 per month and other provisions designed to improve the applicant's or recipient's way of life.

Increased cost of living has made the present amount of security to the needy aged and blind of this State inadequate; and in order to provide for the protection, care, and assistance to the people of the State in need and to promote the welfare and happiness of all of the people of the State, the increase of assistance to the needy aged and needy blind as provided by this article is necessary.

It is also the purpose of this article that this assistance shall be administered promptly and humanely, with due regard for the preservation of family life, and without discrimination on account of race, religion, or political affiliation; and that assistance shall be so administered as to encourage self respect, self reliance, and the desire to be a good citizen useful to society.

It is the purpose of this article to give security to every aged and blind person eligible under this article and who is needy, according to the provisions laid down by the Federal Government.